

**This Issue: SORTING OUT THE NEW DC CONTINUITY**

• No. 120 • July 1 • \$2.50 (\$3.75 in Canada)

# AMAZING HEROES



**MIKE GRELL TALKS**  
About Green Arrow, Jon  
Sable, and Vietnam.

# Portia Print

of the Elements

FACES A  
COSMIC  
CRISIS

ART  
WITH  
COMMERCE

"Portia Print  
[is] one of those  
very rare literary events  
that make it worthwhile  
getting a literary education  
[from Portia's] beautiful  
drawings. To be in close  
contact is sheer delight!"

—Ron Frenkel  
Column Editor, *Roller*



"I've predicted  
the presence of the  
Black and White Express  
has saved the other way.  
Many readers aren't aware  
of Scott or his ability, mainly  
because they're convinced  
that they were just a fool  
A lot of good material in  
your, right issues!"

—Michael Morris  
Comic Book Artist

If Your Dealer's Sold Out . . .  
**ASK FOR IT!!**  
**MAKE UP YOUR OWN MIND!**

Six Bi-Monthly Issues from ECLIPSE

No. 120 AMAZING HEROES July 1

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**OUR COVER:** A carefully  
revolved portrait of Oliver (Green  
Arrow) Green by Mike Grell. Art ©  
1997 DC Comics Inc.

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# the SISTERHOOD of STEEL



IS BACK!

A GRAPHIC ALBUM

THIS SUMMER FROM



by CHRISTY MARK  
and PETER LEDGER



SOFTCOVER \$9.95 • HARDCOVER 14.95 • LIMITED ED. HARDCOVER SOLOED AND NUMBERED 24.95

## NEWSLINE

### DC Notes: More Byrne projects



Moench and Gidycz's *Star Wars* part of the new \$1.75 line.

**DOES:** *Millennium* is a weekly title, and a new monthly one, as we noted last issue. At least we did split the title correctly.

**ANNUALS AND BIG ISSUES:** This year's *Three Times Annual* (L) of you're counting, boasts a double-length story by MARK WOLFFMAN and PETER CULLINS, and a hefty \$1.25 cover price. *Justice League International* #7 features a new title, and adds 16 pages for this issue put to accommodate it.

Speaking of prices, three deluxe comics in DC's July schedule have taken the price tag up to \$1.75. Outside, *Legion of Super-Heroes*, *New Teen Titans*—where Ray is joined by the new new ones, *Star Wars* and *Star Wars*—and all three are monthly.

**Weekend:** premiering in May, is a sword-and-sorcery series written and drawn by JIM STARLIN.

**The Fury:** premiering in June, is described as "a modern-day, street gang, subculture story." It's written and drawn by BILL WALTON, and known for his *Four Knight* parody.

**Justice:** premiering in September, is a three-issue series.

from main artist: *Justice* releases.

**PEOPLE:** The limited about new JOHN BYRNE series, *People*, will debut in early '91 as the "prequel drama" in a *Dark Knight* format. JIM STARLIN and BOB

60" JAMIE DELANO and JOHN REDWAT are doing a *Swamp Thing* spin-off book, *John Constantine's Hellblazer*. PAUL KUPFERBERG and TOD SMITH are behind DC's latest revival of an old Charlton series: *Powerman*. AND 14 DREAM-TESTED AND PETER CULLINS are doing the revival of *Firestorm*.

**HEROES AND VILLAINS:** My *Shogun* means "again for the first time" in *Superman* #13. The *Flamingo Man* and John Constantine (who gets his own book later this year, not shown) return to *Swamp Thing* in #60. *Changeling* and *Wonder Girl* make cameos in *Flash* #6. *Batman* guest stars in *Villains* #1. Oh, sorry, that should be *The Batman*. The original *Blue Beetle* returns in *Blue Beetle* #1. Look for a new *Blue Beetle* to debut later this year. Find out the new, revised history of *Batgirl* in *Servicemen* #18. The *Justice League* helps *Batman* Gold out of trouble in *Batman* #42. And then *Batman* comes around and appears in *Justice Comics* #94. And *Wonder Girl* returns in *Green Lantern Corps* #28.

### Three new titles from Aircel Comics

Aircel Comics, currently Canada's most prolific comic-book company, has announced several new titles for the summer. All three are black-and-white, and all three are monthly.

**Justice:** premiering in May, is a sword-and-sorcery series written and drawn by JIM STARLIN.

**The Fury:** premiering in June, is described as "a modern-day, street gang, subculture story." It's written and drawn by BILL WALTON, and known for his *Four Knight* parody.

**Justice:** premiering in September, is a three-issue series.

from main artist: *Justice* releases.

GORDON DERRY writes and ADRIAN KLEINBERG, a professional illustrator and graphic designer who cites JOHN BYRNE and Japanese animation as his inspirations of *Justice*.

Three new titles will bring Aircel's monthly output to one title, two of which are in color.

Aircel is also releasing three paperback books in July. *Justice* #1 is a full-page paperback book that costars all the main characters and who are giving the history of *Justice*. *Justice* #2 is a full-page paperback book that costars all the main characters and who are giving the history of *Justice*. *Justice* #3 is a full-page paperback book that costars all the main characters and who are giving the history of *Justice*.

Justice #1 is a full-page paperback book that costars all the main characters and who are giving the history of *Justice*. Justice #2 is a full-page paperback book that costars all the main characters and who are giving the history of *Justice*. Justice #3 is a full-page paperback book that costars all the main characters and who are giving the history of *Justice*.

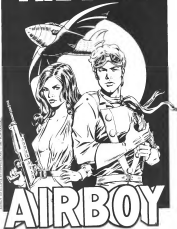








# FLY WITH THE BEST



# AIRBOY

BY DIXON · RANDALL · DEMULDER

More plot than  
most 48-page monthlies  
—Don Thompson

It took me a while to  
get used to the new  
—D.A. Jones

very effectively  
done  
—Roger Delaney



BIWEEKLY ACTION!

COMING

Cover Color & McPherson  
\$1.24 cover price, ships \$1.75 (weekend \$1.95)

#### STAR TREK #12

Serialized in "The Apollo" — What's people  
on board and what's out? It's all  
here!  
Story Mike Carlini  
Art Sutton & Robinson  
Cover Engelwald & Lewis  
\$1.24 cover price, ships \$1.75 (weekend \$1.95)

#### SUPERMAN #10

Superman's own power to killing  
him.  
Story/Artists John Byrne  
\$1.24 cover price, ships \$1.75 (weekend \$1.95)



#### TALES OF THE TEEN TITANS #12

Reprising New Teen Titans #12  
Story Mike Carlini  
Art Bennett/Lewis/Woodward  
Cover Romano Engel  
Cover Engelwald & Robinson  
\$1.24 cover price, ships \$1.75 (weekend \$1.95)

#### VIGILANTE #18

In all, Vigilante is everybody's thing  
here.  
Story Paul Kupperberg  
Art/Color T. Smith & Burchett  
\$1.24 cover price, ships \$1.75 (weekend \$1.95)

#### WORLDWIDE ANNUAL #1

Delivers more in comic format of  
characters but few must overcome the  
year-end and The New Year  
Story Michael Fletcher  
Cover Pablo Menace  
\$1.24 cover price, ships \$1.75 (weekend \$1.95)

#### WILD DOG #1

Remember the good old days at the high  
school as the police try to discover  
"Who is Who Dog?"  
Story Mike Allen Collins  
Art/Color Beatty & Giamberini  
\$1.24 cover price, ships \$1.75 (weekend \$1.95)

#### WONDER WOMAN #9

The secret story behind the new  
Wonder Woman.  
Story Mike & Pencil  
Art Pencil & Robinson  
\$1.24 cover price, ships \$1.75 (weekend \$1.95)

Cover Savage Power  
\$1.24 cover price, ships \$1.75 (weekend \$1.95)

#### YOUNG ALLSTARS #1

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Art Sutton & Robinson  
Cover Engelwald & Lewis  
\$1.24 cover price, ships \$1.75 (weekend \$1.95)

"Pigs in Pigger" comic from Alice in  
Wonderland and the new  
Story/Artists Mike Carlini  
\$1.24 cover price, ships \$1.75 (weekend \$1.95)

#### ENDANGER #12

Serialized in "The Apollo" — What's people  
on board and what's out? It's all  
here!  
Story Mike Carlini  
Art Sutton & Robinson  
Cover Engelwald & Lewis  
\$1.24 cover price, ships \$1.75 (weekend \$1.95)

#### HOTSPUR #1

Serialized in "The Apollo" — What's people  
on board and what's out? It's all  
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Story Mike Carlini  
Art Sutton & Robinson  
Cover Engelwald & Lewis  
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#### KARL #1

Serialized in "The Apollo" — What's people  
on board and what's out? It's all  
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Story Mike Carlini  
Art Sutton & Robinson  
Cover Engelwald & Lewis  
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#### THE LIBERTY PROJECT #1

Serialized in "The Apollo" — What's people  
on board and what's out? It's all  
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Story Mike Carlini  
Art Sutton & Robinson  
Cover Engelwald & Lewis  
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here!  
Story Mike Carlini  
Art Sutton & Robinson  
Cover Engelwald & Lewis  
\$1.24 cover price, ships \$1.75 (weekend \$1.95)



#### THE PSYCHIC GIRL #1

Serialized in "The Apollo" — What's people  
on board and what's out? It's all  
here!  
Story Mike Carlini  
Art Sutton & Robinson  
Cover Engelwald & Lewis  
\$1.24 cover price, ships \$1.75 (weekend \$1.95)

#### MILTON CANIFF'S AMERICA

Serialized in "The Apollo" — What's people  
on board and what's out? It's all  
here!  
Story Mike Carlini  
Art Sutton & Robinson  
Cover Engelwald & Lewis  
\$1.24 cover price, ships \$1.75 (weekend \$1.95)

#### PORTAL PRIZE OF THE GLAMAZONS #1

Serialized in "The Apollo" — What's people  
on board and what's out? It's all  
here!  
Story Mike Carlini  
Art Sutton & Robinson  
Cover Engelwald & Lewis  
\$1.24 cover price, ships \$1.75 (weekend \$1.95)

#### THE DREAMERS #1

Serialized in "The Apollo" — What's people  
on board and what's out? It's all  
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Story Mike Carlini  
Art Sutton & Robinson  
Cover Engelwald & Lewis  
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**AB:** What kind of editorial control does the company, First Comics, have?

**GRIEL:** I, as publisher in his right mind, will keep editorial control, but creative control. That is a liberty between the artist and the writer. During the course of 25 pages of comic, I have a lot of fun in the script. I like to put into the story line in the editor too it needs to go.

**AB:** I can see the attempt to make the character as a free alienator in the character as a free alienator in the nature of human writer and between characters.

**GRIEL:** I think one of the best ways to make people interesting in the stories you're writing is to add dimensions to the characters. It bothers me to read some where characters are as distant from the home.

People always ask if I pick a lot of myself in Jon Sable. I begin with me, maybe. Maybe. Maybe. But "which you read a story, what you get to 60 per cent plot, 20 per cent character, and 20 per cent what-over the writer knows best." That's exactly what it is with my writing.

**AB:** But when do you when writing to write something, you're not familiar with?

**GRIEL:** I do a lot of research. I did a story about a Russian in Berlin [Sable #67] who broke out of the Berlin Wall. I've never been there, but I can tell you where the street is, and how to get there, and have different parts of this city.

If you take the time and effort to make it complex enough to hold the reader's interest and to create, your character will seem real enough to suspend his disbelief.

For example, what makes Frank Miller's Daredevil so good is that Frank was not writing about a blind super-hero with super-powers. He was writing about people who just happen to include, among others, a blind super-hero.

**AB:** I think Jon Sable still has used the imagination of context. I was especially moved by that story where Sable returned to Vietnam. I understand some of it was autobio-

graphical—would Jon Sable be told about it?

**GRIEL:** I have a better feeling now than I did at the time [during the war] because I worked through a few months of hardship and skepticism during the writing and drawing of those issues. It was like being back at that time. But I gave me a closer perspective on all sides. I was able to write a more effective story for that reason.

**AB:** How did readers respond to it?

**GRIEL:** The feedback was strong. Those who appreciated it the most were the veterans. I've had direct of people come up to me and say that they were pleased to see it. It's often said to me what they were going through. They related to the character's attitude, whispering that they probably the highest compliment I have ever received.

I had people say to me that they appreciated it because they had a

friend or relative who had been in the war and they couldn't understand his behavior until they read the story and began to understand... to me.

**AB:** Can you give us an example?

**GRIEL:** There was a guy, a fighter, who had done two tours of Vietnam, and was a lot of trouble. He shook my hand and simply said "I read the issues," and didn't have to say anything else. It was all written in his face. [Power]

**AB:** When you approached First Comics about writing this story, did they agree to what you wanted to do?

**GRIEL:** Absolutely. Mike Gold [First Comics' editor, now Senior Editor at DC Comics], my editor, and I were in opposite sides of the war. He was involved in the anti-war movement while I was stationed in Saigon. We met in the first edition of *AB*, which was set during the late '60s. There was a pop-culture character named Ronnie Davis,

who was indicated on charges making from men-war protest. He was part of the Chicago Seven, that had caused riots written by the POWs who mentioned other POWs who never appeared in two of making soldiers in protest camps. Gold just shook his head and said he and I were both dealing with the subject, because I didn't want to be influential. [Sable] I wanted to do it my way.

First Blood was very good, except for the explosion at the end. I enjoyed it a lot. Ronko was cowboy and means in Vietnam. Finally, unbelievable, can you go back and laughingly writing the war?

**AB:** What are some of your thoughts on Vietnam?

**GRIEL:** I had gone from the point where I graduated over the years that the war was wrong. I had come to believe that the people who took part in it were very wrong—but people who stayed behind and protested were right. I remembered what it was like to read the newspapers of that time, and how people in the U.S. used to call us criminals. But we were doing our job as best as we could, and I signed up for it. We, very few people agreed that was

**AB:** Speaking of Vietnam, have you seen First Blood and Rambo?

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**GRIEL:** Rambo appeared at the same time as "M.I.A." It was a huge success. It seemed as if it were bad news. I made a concerted effort to say away from service and from dealing with the subject, because I didn't want to be influential. [Sable] I wanted to do it my way.

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and when dealing with a real world subject as emotional as Vietnam, you must input the time very carefully. I think Sable was a gift to the nation.

**AB:** If it didn't end with some trauma, Vietnam did happen in the *Wildcat* before going into the film? But none a story about that on Jon Sable #25-35.

**GRIEL:** The original *Madison* fiction was just randomly said to some kind of success. A big collector bought it and paid a small fortune for it.

**AB:** That's mine! The story you were able to deal with the fiction being sold as an exercise.

**GRIEL:** What can I say? [Laughs] the *Wildcat* Zone where?

**AB:** I don't know where there's a member involved in this tale?

**GRIEL:** Who knows?

**GRIEL:** February 1982, nine months after the preceding issue, *AB* #67 and I took again to write my first comic, *Jon Sable*. After paper I had just finished the first book, and was working hard on the second and third, in addition to my regular newspaper of Jon Sable information service, and the *Comic*-connected film, *Platoon*.

**AB:** When we last spoke, the *Green Arrow* project was slated to be released March '87. Is it on target?

**GRIEL:** No, the first book will be out April. Eventually including me though, I would've been featured by now [some laughter] I had intended to be finished by the end of March. But I would make it. I'm currently working on the second book.

**AB:** How does you've finished the first book. How does the quality look in respect to what you hoped for?

**GRIEL:** I'm probably a bad one to ask, but I'll tell you what everyone else has been telling me. They're saying it's the best thing that *Green Arrow* has. I would compare it to quality in the writing and finish to the *Sable* comic. In terms of drawing quality, it definitely shows that years of growth and development.

**AB:** I saw a definite improvement between your DC *Green Arrow* and *AB* and *Sable*.

**GRIEL:** I should hope so. I've been at this for 16 years and if I haven't developed, grown, and become a better artist, I should have been a long time ago.

Although there are those who'd say ancient copies of the *Legend of*



\* Jon Sable #27-28 was a story titled "M.I.A." which concerned Sable's return to Vietnam on search for evidence of missing POWs. But at the end of the story, instead of being rescued, Gold was captured and sent to the Air Force in Saigon during the war, and in a story three years would prefer to avoid, he related his experiences through Jon Sable.





# TIME



SEE  
WHAT'S  
BECOME  
OF ME

## A Post-Crisis DC Chronology

by Brian Hughes

**(QUANTUM NOTES)** He now *is* the central article in DC Comics a few weeks before going into production, and DC editor Bob Greenberger obliged by providing extensive notes for some readers, he covered spelling errors or misquoting, and then he went straight into the body of the article, in which he pointed out future plans and indicated continuity elements that had not yet been officially announced (such as plans for *J'onn J'onnz*), some were integrated, and others were left as *in progress*. Thanks, Bob!

—EDS/

Under the guise of "straightening out" its history DC Comics published a 12-issue "max-series" called *Crisis on Infinite Earths*. During the course of this crisis, the DC Multiverse, which contained several major continuity lines scattered among a number of parallel Earths, was condensed into a Universe, containing only one continuity, one timeline, and one Earth. Although this new continuity was never previously spelled out, by now it is clear that it is not the continuity of any specific Earth that existed before DC did not take any of the secondary universes of Earths 2, 3, 3, 5, and X, but of the universe in which the majority of their continuity published magazines had taken place, Earth-1.

Because of this, the previously connected hero histories and timelines published by long time fans which have been the most of magazines like *Amazing Heroes* are now flat facts paid to a point that never happened. I don't think that this is a particularly bad thing, and yes, the new versions of old characters have been more exciting and more interesting than their historical counterparts. Still, we were promised a new cleaned-up continuity which would be fully followed by all future DC editors and writers, one that would be simple and comprehensible to fans that did not have Ph.D.s in Silver Age cosmology. On that promise I don't think DC has delivered (and judging by the continued blather I've seen from readers, both in the last year and DC last pages, I think most people agree with me).

The long needed epilogue to the Crisis, *The History of the DC Universe*, intended to be merely a collection of pretty pictures, most a liturgical book history, which I have noticed from the fact that it ran simultaneously with the Crisis, so that the articles in it were obsolete almost from the moment they were printed.

However, it falls once again to the fans to record the history, considering the quality of most company produced products of the past few years, this is probably a good thing. First know what fans want to know, and not much less relevant to provide it, than its publication aimed to "be the hands" of future writers, and intent on making a reader more commercially viable audience.

As that is being written, I have been 15 months since Crisis #2 hit the stands. In that span, large portions of the new history have been documented, most notably in the files of *Level Zero* series, "Batman Year One," and various issues of *Secret Origins*. It is from these sources that the broad outline of this chronology was constructed, like this broad outline the other known events of the history are also spelled out. Thus, if Robin (Dick Grayson) made his first appearance in age 8, it is now 26, as it states in *Secret Origins* #3, the career of the Blue Beetle must be into that span, regardless of the many years ago the first issue of their adventures was published.

Similarly, if Superman had appeared in public during "Batman Year One" as it says in that series, then his chronology must be made to span the same period of time.

I have yet the first year of Superman adventures equal to the first year of Batman adventures before the last coming and the place prior to Batman's becoming "authored" by comicbooker Gordon. There would be no reason for Superman's attempts to arrest him after that date. John Byrne's recent provides some of all of Superman's adventures through *Secret Origins*. There would be no reason for Superman's attempts to arrest him after that date. John Byrne's recent provides some of all of Superman's adventures through *Secret Origins*. There would be no reason for Superman's attempts to arrest him after that date. John Byrne's recent provides some of all of Superman's adventures through *Secret Origins*.

whenever previously recorded Superman adventures exist which do not contradict the new history (i.e., no stories involving Luthor, Krypton, Kryptonite, although by now to discuss his "nuclear alloy," etc., need be considered).

For the other DC characters whose chronology has remained mostly intact—Green Lantern, the Flash, Aquaman, etc.—I had to make the most of the information available to the approximately 30-year period allowed by the new history. There are several ways to do this, but I opted to do it strictly by dividing the number of years of real time by the number of years of comic book time and applying that as a correction factor. I thought of compensating for the fact that some moved faster in the '60s than it does now due to the persistence of continued stories, but the difference in the results was so minor that it wasn't worth the effort.

With a progress as meager as this, there will be some details with which readers will want to quibble. For instance, I left the origin of *J'onn J'onnz* in 1955 because a recent *JE* story indicated that he'd received his distinctive look in long ago times, but I can't remember just when I could have ignored that remark as a stupid remark, but I liked the story and it doesn't contradict anything else in the *Post-Crisis* history, so I used it. I also used the fact that DC's plan to revise the Martian history for a continuity, rendering most if not all of *J'onn J'onnz*'s adventures null and void. Until we see how much of it is changed, we're leaving an unbroken reference to the "old" *J'onn J'onnz*.

I have tried to include all the major DC characters from 1938 to the present. I'll have left out your favorites, though most are represented so that it doesn't be fairly easy for you to figure out where they fit. Some important parts of the new history have yet to be re-written, such as the new origin of Flash, Wonder Girl and Bizarro, and the aforementioned *J'onn J'onnz*. Revisions are also planned to the origin of, among others, Green Arrow. Therefore this history is not a complete history of the DC Universe.

<sup>1</sup> In fact, their characters altered by the Crisis were "revised" rather than "new" who appear "7" —EDS



any can only be considered a final death of a work in progress, and that I hope will be in progress for a long time to come.

Each event is arranged sequentially in the year's "back issue" in. Each is followed by a reference to the comic from which that date was determined. Post-Crisis references, indicating the event is still considered a part of DC history, are included whenever possible.

All references to the locations of imaginary DC cities are taken from *Amazing World of DC Comics #4*. DC is officially ignoring them, but they're important for the sake of some kind of completeness. (As well as simulations.)

most value: Metropolis is in Baltimore!

All references in the chronology are to the New DC universe. When it was necessary to refer to pre-Crisis continuity, I have placed those references in italicized notes in parentheses. For simplicity's sake, the post-Crisis world is referred to as "the Universe" and the pre-Crisis world is "the Multiverse."

From 1938 until 1961, and then again from 1972 until the present, a lot has occurred DC policy that those characters do not say. "Whoever DC" intends to continue this policy. I am not sure if they do, however, then for each year

that goes by in the "real world" still stays in this history must be moved forward a year. Within this issue, this will strike a significant blow to the DC children of the WW2 Justice Society. Perhaps then we have the real end of a storm crisis. For now I hope the following history makes it possible for you to read DC's important new titles without getting that colorful "temporarily unavailable" label on the cover. I've based it on more than complete threat recently. **JOHN WILLIAMS**

I give the nature of several projects, one character or another, who is a part of the world, and everyone else would be, too. —**JO**



## 1938

Faced with the imminent destruction of his planet, Krypton, scientist Jor-El crafts his son's evolution matrix with an experimental suit drive and launches it into space, towards the planet Earth. (History of the DC Universe #1)

When, with that event the age of heroes begins. In the Multiverse, the coming of Superman had already been the event that signaled the dawning of the superhero. On both Earths 1 and 2, Superman was the first hero. In the Universe, that was no longer the case. Perhaps he never existed elsewhere and it would Superman's arrival that sent the trigger, but the destruction of Krypton itself. The energy contained in the billions of tons that had formerly orbited that planet was now released into the Universe and would somewhere in go. (See Earth 1) First superheroes would appear. Masked vigilantes had existed for some time and there were always a few naive practitioners of the occult. The new breed however would have stronger, somewhat, one-of-a-kind

powers, some of which would be truly unbelievable.

In September, Multiverse University student Jay Garrick makes the fastest time chronicles spotted in a lab accident. When he comes in days later, he discovers that he is now the fastest man on Earth. Two years later, he will set the record of The Flash. (Flash Comics #1, Secret Origins #9)

In October, outstanding newspaper publisher Lois Lane attends a Halloween party on the night of William's festival "War of the Worlds" broadcast. When the radio program is shown back into the party, the masked publisher goes into action as the Crimson Avenger. (Secret Origins #5)

## 1939

Playboy Wesley Dodds becomes the first man in order to protect the visiting King of England from a feared attack by either the mysterious Crimson Avenger or the even more mysterious Phantom of the New York World's Fair. After discovering that the Crimson is really Dodds' old body, Lou Lorenz, the son of them was up to protect the king from the super strong and apparently invulnerable Phantom. (Secret Origins #1)

(Note: The Phantom of the Fair, related perhaps to the Crimson Cosmos hero, appears as a claim that honor of being the first super-villain.)

Soon after the September 1, 1939 German invasion of Poland, U.S. Marine, Hank Heywood is caught in an explosion. More dead than alive, he suffers. Gilbert Orlin is reborn from one crisis, the next. "VICTIM" was. Five several months he battles Nazis in America and abroad, and he is captured by the Nazis and imprisoned. (Steel #1-5)

Now a graduate student at Keystone University, Jay Garrick uses his super-speed to break up a protest march. (Flash Comics #1, Secret Origins #9)

Multiverse scientist Carter Hall discovers that he is

the reincarnation of an Egyptian prince. In order to escape his incarceration, he follows from his secret escape. He becomes the immortal, even being modern scientific discoveries such as the multi-world which enables him to fly, with various weapons such as his favorite battle axe. (Flash Comics #1, Secret Origins #1)

Three months after the German invasion of Poland, a Polish-American whose family was killed during the invasion organizes the Blackhawk flying squadron, determined to gain his personal revenge on Germany. The international group of pilots operates from a secret base independently of allied forces. (Military Comics #5)

Darrel Dane develops a serum which allows him to render himself to his wishes in battle while still retaining the strength of a full sized man. He becomes the super-hero BULLMAN in order to rescue his girl friend Martha Roberts from a kidnapper. (Famous Comics #21, Secret Origins #8)

## 1940

When Jay Garrick's girl friend's father is kidnapped, Garrick becomes the FLASH in order to rescue him and bring the gangsters to justice. (Flash Comics #1, Secret Origins #9)

JOHN THUNDER, kidnapped as a boy and taken to Balduvia, where he was trained as their tyrannical ruler, discovers he has the power to control a mystic thunder bolt that will obey his every command for one hour. Having escaped from the Balduvians and been given the mystic thunder bolt by them, he returns to the time events must be related. Unfortunately, a later the very bright younger man tries to discover the magic used which summons the Thunderbolt. At the time, he can only rely on his accident. (Flash Comics #1, Secret Origins #2)

Gateway City detective Jim Corrigan is killed by gangster "Doc" Brown. However, a mysterious voice calls him back to Earth in light of the ECTE. (More Flash Comics #2-44, Secret Origins #2)

New York City character Ben Tyler acquires Molecule which gives him super strength for one hour. Appropriately he decides to call himself MOLECULE. (Adventure Comics #48, Secret Origins #10)

Young engineer Alan Ladd Wellington Scott is building a bridge at the seashore when his project is destroyed by a prodigious red creature. Trying to learn why he lived through the explosion, Alan realizes that the great natural leaders he is holding a communicating with his mind. It is his father's story of how it was made from a matter which originally fell in the clouds. "Three words that I have given: First to being dead? Second to being ill? Third is being poor?" Then being the third son, Alan returns a ring from a piece of the leaders and uses his power to bring the morticians to justice. A lot



Aqua from Flash Comics #1. Gardner Fox's original story-typed wonder—a night pirate!

then realizes that he must continue to "find my light over dark evil. But the dark things cannot stand the light. The light of the CHAIN LIGHTER!" (All-American Comics #6, Secret Origins #1)

Five first one each full college student Al Pratt of Chelton City, is trained by a former heavyweight champion, Joe Morgan, to become a peak specimen of strength and agility so that he can defend his girlfriend against hoodlums and punks. From there it was just a small step to fighting crime as THE ARMO. (All-American Comics #1)

In November 1940, President Roosevelt contacts the Flash and Green Lantern and asks them to undertake a secret mission to Europe in order to help the British. Instead a planned mission by Hitler. Dr. Fate independently gathers another group of leaders, including Superman, Hawkman, Aquaman, and the Sandman. The Spectre also shows up on his own. After successfully destroying Hitler's invasion fleet, the heroes rescue the President from an assassination attempt. Inspired, F.D.R. requests that they form a permanent group, the JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA. (DC Special #2)

## 1941

Rebilly playboy and millionaire Ted Knight uses his creative ray instruments to power Professor Davis's genius and decides to become a costumed adventurer like Green Lantern in order to capture his girl friend Donna Roberts. Armed with the red which allows him to fly and choose powerful weapons, he becomes VIBRAM. (All Star Squadron #4)

Physician Charles McNider gains the ability to see as the dark after an attempted mob killing. Using Mackie bombs to gain an advantage over criminals, he becomes the RED HORN. (All American Comics #35)



Fifteen-year-old Helena Komarova, fleeing from the Nazi masters of Greek mythology. The Feds grant her the power to arrange her mother's death as FURY, daughter of Thetis. After accomplishing this, she escapes to Atlantis with the help of secreted reporter Johnny Chambers. (Greatest Comics #12)

On July 4, young Sylvester Pemberton and Big Daddy independently decide to become mystery men after attending a post-Nazi rally. Appalled by what they saw, they decide to reemerge patriotism by becoming THE UNBROKEN KID and STARDUST. (Star-Spangled Comics #6, Secret Origins #9)

For Atom, a knight of the Round Table who had been given a winged horse by Merlin, is found frozen in a block of ice off the shores of New England. Amazingly, when he is thawed, he and his horse Winged Victory are found to be still alive. Sir Atom pledges to defend his new homeland from all villains and defectors, just as he had done at the days of Arthur, under the name SHROUD KNIGHT. (Adventure Comics #66, All Star Squadron #62)

Crimed and Offense falls into a vat of chemicals during a robbery and discovers he has the power to control his body out any shape. Becoming his ideal self, he becomes PLASTIC MAN, scourge of the underworld. (Police Comics #6)

Radio thrilladist Greg Sanders leaves New York to arrange his father's death. After his father was killed by thugs out to steal a gold shipment he was guarding. Afterwards Greg decides to devote his life to hunting down criminals in THE VAMPIRE. (Action Comics #42)

Having been given the formula for super speed by his grandson, Professor GILL, secreted reporter Johnny Chambers becomes KIDNEY QUICK. (Silver Fox Comics #71, All Star Squadron #68)

Finding himself too hot, the Flash resigns the chairmanship of the Justice Society and asks to be put in inactive status. Long time tagalong Johnny Thunder is elected to the team and Green Lantern becomes the new chairman. (All Star Comics #6)

Heavyweight champion Ted Grant becomes THE WILDCAT in order to clear his name of a manslaughter charge. (Sensation Comics #1, All Star Squadron #60 and #6)

Terry Malone, child prodigy, financial wizard and genius inventor, becomes MR. TERRIFIC in hopes of relieving the boredom of life. (Sensation Comics #1)

The Justice Society and Superman try to arrest an American who has been marked for death by Ian Karkul in a plot to change history. When Green Lantern fails to rescue his charge, he becomes dependent and resigns from the team. The new who are recruited all eventually become presidents of the United States. During their battle with Karkul, the heroes are buried in "waters of time," the effects of which are unknown but appear to increase longevity and forestall old age. (All Star Squadron #60 and #6)

Hourman escapes from the USA due to his problems with infrared radiation. Dr. Mid and Superman are needed to replace him and Green Lantern. (All Star Comics #6)

Dr. Fate steps wearing the helmet of Nahu because he fears his mind is being taken over by the supernatural being which inhabits it. He begins wearing a half-helmet made of ordinary metal instead. Without the magic his powers are greatly reduced to little more than flying and super strength. (Silver Fox Comics #71, All Star Squadron #22)

Former Olympic athlete Liberty Lawrence, who had escaped from Nazi occupied Europe by swimming the English Channel, dons the costume of LIBERTY BELL in order to fight injustice, and inadvertently serves to get long-haired abolitionists from the winging of the Liberty Bell. (Silly Comics #1, All Star Squadron #6)

In October 1941, scientist Bob Crane is murdered by gangsters, but his assistant Chuck Grayson explains his dying breath into a robot body they had built Crane designed but was smaller in size. (Star-Spangled Comics #7, All Star Squadron #62)

Crime fiction writer Jonathan Lee decides to write a book on the new wave of mystery men. Based on his research, he decides to become one himself, as well. (Sensation Comics #1, All Star Squadron #62)

After the death of his girl friend, Dan Belmont, the bandman begins searching the new costume he de-



signed. He then adopts the young boy Sandy Sherkman as his sidekick. (Adventure Comics #59, All Star Squadron #6)

A group of mystery men unite to stop a gang of criminals led by the Vigilante's old foe, The Head. Also, the Vigilante and Star's the Chronicle Kid, the Star-Spangled Kid and Starling, the Crimson Avenger and Wing, and the Shining Knight form the LANT LIGHTRIDERS, sometimes known as the SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY. (Leading Comics #1)

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. Since the USA is losing, President Roosevelt calls together a new group of heroes. Plastic Man, Liberty Bell, Johnny Quick, the Shining Knight and Robinson join Hawkman, Dr. Mid-Nite, and the Atom in searching for the missing heroes. The President suggests forming an umbrella group to coordinate the activities of all mystery men by the decision of the war. THE ALL-STAR SQUADRON. (All Star Squadron #1)

The All-Star Squadron finds the Justice Society on a Pacific island, where they had been trapped by the Degaton, a criminal from 1942, who had traveled in time in order to change the outcome of the war. Danza Reilly, a neuroscientist studying on the island, is hit by a beam of mystic energy thrown by Nigma, one of Degaton's allies. The combined use of heroes nearly defeats Degaton and sends him and his minions back to their own times. (All Star Squadron #1-6)

The JSA leads for Europe to take on Hitler, but they find that the most powerful magic-related powers cannot enter the continent without coming under the influence of his master Sorcerer of Destiny and hissing powers of the Axis. Reluctantly, they decide to restrict their activities to the home front. (All Star Squadron #6)

Danica Reilly discovers that she has the power to control time and fly. Having also discovered that her brother, Red, had been a mystery man before he

was injured at Pearl Harbor, Danica decides to work over his non-dead parents in the FRODO. (All Star Squadron #6)

## 1942

The JSA decides to shut its members can over the armed forces in their civilian schemes. (All Star Comics #11, All Star Squadron #7)

Based in London by the Germans as part of a plot to kill Churchill. Unknown to himself and the All-Stars, he is under a post-incident command to assassinate the Prime Minister. He succeeds in breaking Baron Blüdhorn's control and joins the All-Stars as Commanders Steel. (All Star Squadron #9-20)

Metropolis police officer Jim Harper becomes THE COLOSSUS in order to protect a 1939 gang he has been appointed legally responsible for. (Star-Spangled Comics #7)

Robinson is arrested and tried to determine if he should be classified as property and turned over to the heat of Earth-Cost. In order to preserve his freedom, Chuck Grayson reveals that Robinson is really in Bob Crane. (All Star Squadron #5, All Star Squadron #9-20)

With invasion of Europe is granted super powers by the Ultra Humanite as part of a plot to use Dr. Fate's helmet. As the ULTRA-HUMAN, Will has the power to absorb the properties of any substance he touches. Amazing Man and his friend Cyclotron battle against the Ultra Humanite and help the All-Stars defeat him in the final battle. Cyclotron dies from his own radiation but not before leading the Atom in it, an event which would have a delayed reaction years later. The Atom and Firebrand take upon themselves the responsibility of raising Cyclotron's daughter. (All Star Squadron #22-24 and #2)

Karak finds Dr. Fate's helmet but the helmet's power corrupts him. The helmet is lost in other dimensions



The mutant woman with the great name: Ingotpate Peltus from *All-Star Squadron* #33.

for years afterwards. (*All-Star Squadron* #27-28)

Thomas N. Thomas and Danny Dushner somehow absorb radioactive chemicals during a lab experiment and discover they have super strength when they smash their rings together. They fight crime as Red and Green Lanterns. (*Star Spangled Comics* #7)

For the first time, the entire membership of the *All-Star Squadron*, consisting of every mystery man that could be located, is assembled in one place. (*All-Star Squadron* #31)

Nephris Proteus, a mutant who needs to live in water (she doesn't breathe it), saves Flathead and Johnny Quick and helps them stop a Japanese sub attack on California. They also meet Thomas, a Republican American with the power to control water, who is upset as to which side that is on. (*All-Star Squadron* #33)

Baron Bliskberg accidentally gives Liberty Belle atomic powers when an experiment designed to cure his blindness is focused on her. (*All-Star Squadron* #36)

Johnny Quick and Liberty Belle get married. (*All-Star Squadron* #38)

After TNT is killed, Dan the Dyke-Mate joins Iron Mouse, Tumbler, Fairy, The Flying Fox, the Tigress,

and Neptune Drake to form the Young All Stars. (*Young All Stars* #1-6)

## 1944

The Sandman starts from super-heroics after he has a heart attack. (*America vs. the Justice Society*)

Dr. Fate, no longer equipped with the helmet of Nabu, decides he can help mankind even by studying medicine. He resigns his membership on the JSA. (*America vs. the Justice Society*)

Oliver Queen, son of a wealthy old New England family, is born in Star City. (*Amazing Women Feature Special* #8)

The Spectre rescues Ben Corigan who joins the army. When the two are separated, the Spectre loses his ability to touch human beings. (*America vs. the Justice Society*)

Starman returns from the mystery man game in order to get married. (*America vs. the Justice Society*)

## 1945

After a short 900 in space by Wildcat and Mr. Terrific, the Flash and Green Lantern return to active status with the JSA. (*All-Star Comics* #50)

All 12 JSA members gather for the last time to attend the funeral of F.L.R. Shortly thereafter, the Spectre disappears completely, leaving the JSA open-ended as to his whereabouts. (*America vs. the Justice Society, Showcase* #68)

On May 8-Germany surrenders. On August 14 Japan surrenders, bringing the World War to a close.

## 1947

Druid Drake, turned down for membership in the Golden Age police force, decides to become the masked vigilante BLACK COMET. (*Flash Comics* #66, *JSC Special Series* #36)

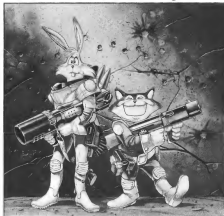
The Justice Society meets the Injustice Society for the first time as Brainwave, The Thinker, Eruption, Mental Energy and The Gladiator unite their efforts to destroy the heroes. (*All-Star Comics* #57)

## 1948

Sylvester Pemberton's adopted sons, Marty, become THE GREENE BROS. after discovering their brother's secret identity. (*Star Spangled Comics* #61)

Johnny Thunder loses most of his control over the Thunderbolt, who is only answering one call out of three. He resigns from the JSA. (*All-Star Comics* #59)

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# CONTRACTORS

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The "real" Superman comes almost face-to-face with his Man of Steel #1.

The Atom gains super strength as a delayed effect from radiation exposure. He also accepts a new costume. (Flash Comics #98)

Black Canary and Green Lantern's wedding line, the Kryptonians, help the USA defeat the Invasion Gang. As a reward, the Black Canary is invited to join the team. (All-Star Comics #6)

## 1949

During a battle with Nikola Tesla, the Law's Legionnaires are flung into the time stream, becoming trapped in different ages of history. (History of the DC Universe #1)

(Note: The Vigilante continued to appear in Action Comics until #104. In the Multiverse, these stories, as well as those in ELA #84 and #89, were considered to feature the Earth-1 Vigilante. In the Universe, these appearances apparently did not take place at all, unless someone else had taken over the Vigilante's identity.)

Hal Jordan is born (without irony) in California. (Green Lantern #36)

Johnny Thunder is kidnapped once again by the Blackbeams. He is brought back to Babylonian and placed under a spell by the Shaman and placed on the throne of the country. Because the Shaman controls Johnny he also controls the Thunderbolt. (America vs. the Justice Society)

<sup>1</sup> The assumption here that the post-1949 Vigilante stories are new out of continuity is correct. Also, there has never been a second Vigilante in the same pose. —RG

## 1951

The Justice Society, under pressure from government misanthropic committees that want them to reveal their identities, breaks apart its members' union. The All-Star and the other masked heroes of the universe are also kept up their hats at this point. Only Plastic Man, who has no double identity and is in a sense of the FBI continues his career. (History of the DC Universe #2)

President Truman sets up governmental organizations to take over the responsibilities of the former superheroes. Task Force X has two branches, the domestic unit, called Argus, is headed by Control, formerly with the GSS. The international side, dubbed the SIGMA SQUAD, is headed by Jet Stunt, with Rick Flag as field commander. Flag's son Richard Rogers is born. (Secret Origins #4)

(Note: At this time many heroes of the Multiverse, apparently occurred on the Earth-2 line on sightseeing, moved to other worlds. Zoomer, the Guardian, Jayhawk, and Robinman all moved to Earth-1, while Plastic Man and many others moved to Earth-3, a world they had visited many times before.)

Johnny Thunder and the Thunderbolt free themselves from the Shaman's spell and overthrow his bid to Babylonian. Johnny decides to remain in Babylonian in order to teach the natives about freedom and democracy. (America vs. the Justice Society)

## 1952

The market containing the 3rd-5th son crashes on Earth

near Smallville, Kansas where it is found by Jonathan and Martha Kent. The infant Kal-El is, in effect, born on Earth. Jonathan and Martha pass him off as their own son after remaining in seclusion at their remote farm for nine months. (Man of Steel #1)

Dr. Thomas and Martha Wayne announce the birth of their son, Bruce to the society pages of Gotham City, New Jersey. (Batman #66)

Adam Blake, a mutant born with the mental capacities of a person from the far future, makes his first appearance as CORTAN CORNET, leading the public assembly towards super-heroes. Captain Comet spends most of his time in space and keeps a low profile. (Strange Adventures #9)

In the early part of this decade, the now retired USA (MILITARY) settles down to normal life. By this point Dr. Fate had probably already married Lisa Kaiwan. The original Flash married Joan Williams. Black Canary married Larry Lance, and the Hawks, Carol Hall and Shiera Sanders, finally decided to make it legal.

First recorded appearance of the Phantom Stranger (Phantom Stranger #1)

Lighthouse keeper Tom Curry finds a mysterious woman washed ashore in a hurricane. He falls in love with and marries her. (Aquaman #98)

## 1953



Daak-Lance is born. The daughter of Larry Lance and Daak-Daak was given mysterious super powers shortly after birth by the old-USA villain, the Wizard. (JLA #128)

Captain Comet leaves Earth to search the universe for a planet on which he would fit in. It is not to return for several decades. (Secret Society of Super-Hillbillies #2)

Arthur Curry is born at the remote lighthouse where

his father and mother live. His father is soon arrested to find the child ran apparently female underwater. (Aquaman [second series] #3)

## 1954

Conditioned heroes begin to emerge overseas, following the example of the war hero ZSA. The Legionary (Italy), the Knight and Squid (France), the Gasco (Argentina), the Musketeer (Finland), and the Wagoner of Sweden from that culture's stories. Dr. Mind of Africa begins to make his presence known in the Western world. (Infinity Inc. #34)

JOHN RONCE, a scientist and political leader from the planet Mars, is brought to Earth by Dr. Zerk's robot boss. Because the brain immediately malfunctioned, Ronce is stranded on Earth for years (not that he really wanted to go back, because he had been placed in political exile for refusing to switch space research over to the military). (FUESS uses his Martian abilities to disguise himself as an Earthman and gets a job as a detective in the Minneapolis police department. (Detective Comics #158, JLA #148, 144)

## 1957

Dr. Mind convinces the western governments to establish a treaty governing super-heroes. The Dome is founded as an international clearing house and coordinating agency for contained crime fighters. The United States, which has effectively banned super-heroes, does not sign the treaty. (Infinity Inc. #34)

Ray Palmer is born. (Showcase #32)

## 1960

Just before dying, Artemus Curry reveals to his son, Ardash, that he is from the underground kingdom of Atlantis. The males have run to use his amulet and ability to help people. Soon after, Tom Curry marries Mary Sullivan. (Aquaman [second series] #3)

At age 5, Bruce Wayne sees his parents murdered on the way home from the theater by a robber later revealed to be named Joe Chill. Bruce and his parents had been visiting a rehearsal of *Twelve Angry Men* at the Most of Zoria. The captured Bruce is taken by Dr. Emilio Thompson, who becomes his guardian. (Batman #68; Detective Comics #94)

Richard Gray's wife Karen is killed in an automobile accident. (Secret Origins #9)

## 1961

The domestic branch of Task Force X asymmetrically

<sup>1</sup> As mentioned earlier, the entire timeline Martian history is unique to the created for a new series and should be discarded.

# WHO WATCHES THE WATCHMEN?



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gone out of existence, or at least the government's records on them cease at this point. (Secret Origins #14)

**Olga Curry is born.** As he grows up, he learns to resent his father's constant favoritism towards his older brother Arthur. As an adult he takes this resentment out on the villainous Ocean Master. (Aquaman Journal #10)

### 1962

**The War Hood,** once destroyed by the Blackhawk during the war, is recreated and attacks America. The *Twelve Sided* steps in to help, but their commander Rick Flag is killed during the battle. (Secret Origins #1)

### 1963

**Jimmy Olsen and Lucy Lane** born. (Man of Steel #5)

**King Thor** of the Kryptonians, an unknown people related to the Atlanteans, goes mad and tries to send his people in a plan of war and conquest. The pacifistic Kryptonians revolt and kill him. His wife **Betha** is exiled to Atlantis, where she gives birth to his son **Ganth**. (Adventure Comics #188, Two Times Spotlight #1)

**Bruce Wayne** begins to live and study abroad. He is not in return to Gotham City until his 25th year. (Batman #48)

**Mary Hamilton,** the *Goddess Girl*, having married **Henry King**, the *Blue Swan*, sometime in the '50s, gives birth to his son **Henry Jr.** The *Blue Swan* is arrested soon after for his crimes. Mary dies early in Henry Jr.'s childhood. (Jaggy Joe #3)

On *Paradise Island*, home of the legendary *Amazon*, **Queen Hippolyta** induces a city planner to build the soul of her unborn child. The child, the first in the history of the *Amazon*, is named **Thana**. (Man of Steel #6)

**Brexit Hall,** the son of the *Harbors*, is born. His future teammate *Neowin* is born a few months later in the mysterious land of *Poshonia*. (Jaggy Joe #9)

### 1966

**Lyla Tarron,** daughter of the *Golden Age* *Perry*, is born under mysterious, as yet unexplained circumstances. (Jaggy Joe #9)

**Hand Heywood III** born. His father, the son of the *Golden Age* hero *Commander Steel*, is shot down in Vietnam two weeks later. (Justice League #135)

**Allen Scott** (the original *Green Lantern*) marries **Alyx Thorne**, unaware that she used to be the *Thera*, an old enemy of the *Flash*. She disappears during a mysterious fire on their wedding night and is pre-

sented dead. In reality, she fled because she was afraid that her split personality would be a danger to Allen. (Jaggy Joe, Annual #1)

**Rick Tyler** born, son of the *Golden Age* *Firestorm*. (Jaggy Joe #26)

*NOTE: If the story in Showcase #56 is correct, it depicting the wedding of *Shazam* and *Shirley* (for us, that must be his second marriage, as it takes place after the *Golden Age* heroes have resumed their costumed identities.)*

### 1967

**Wally West** is born in Blue Valley, Ohio. (The Flash #1)

**Dennis Tru,** who will grow up to be *Wonder Girl*, is born under as yet unexplained circumstances. (The New Teen Titans #10)

**Alyx Thorne** grows birth to twins, who she gives up for adoption. Their new parents are the then *Justice League* members **Lyndee** and **Yield**. (Jaggy Joe #9)



**Richard Grayson** is born into the *Batman* family of acrobats, the *Flying Grayson*. (Secret Origins #10)

### 1968

**Al Robinson** born, the son of *Terr* *Kent* (father), who had been killed by the *Golden Age* *Atom* and *Phantom* after her father the *Cyclotron* died. As he grows up, Al discovered he had gained unusual powers due to the exposure of his grandfather and mother to radiation. (Jaggy Joe #6)

*1. Post Crisis history has this story taking place after the *Golden Age* heroes have resumed their careers. The *Shazam* is only marriage.*



From Captain Adam #1, a mysterious Nathaniel Adams enters a simple classroom and looks out that wall and says, "they are not the military's strongpoint."

## 1969

Hal Jordan graduates from high school and enlists in the Air Force. (Green Lantern #56)

Captain Nathaniel Adams, branded a traitor by the U.S. government, volunteers for a dangerous experiment involving alien technology. During the experiment, he is projected 19 years into the future. (Captain Atom #1)

## 1970

Garfield Logan, son of scientist Mark and Marie Logan, is born. As an infant he is brought to the African country Upper Lamumbo where he catches a rare tropical disease. To cure him, his father travels him with an unnamed machine which turns his disease and gives him the power to change into the shape of any animal he can visualize. (Doom Patrol #68)

At 18 years of age, Clark Kent leaves Smallville and begins pre-lawling super hero in secret, having been convinced by his father parents that he has a duty to the world. (Man of Steel #2)

Oliver Queen, the millionaire playboy, is shipwrecked on a desert island. There he masters the art of archery, inventing several trick arrows in order to survive. After his rescue and return to Star City, Massachusetts, he begins his career as the masked vigilante, GREEN ARROW. (Adventure #256)

## 1972

Tim Curry dies. His son Arthur having been secretly trained to become guardian of the oceans, begins semi-annual patrols of the shipping lanes. (Aquaman: Beyond the Bottom #3, The History of the DC Universe #2)

## 1973

Hal Jordan, having completed his tour of duty, enrolls in an unnamed western college to major in aviation engineering. (Green Lantern #56)

## 1974

Garfield Logan's parents killed in a canoe accident in Africa. Gar's care is taken over by King Tumbala. (Doom Patrol #12)

Clark Kent moves to Metropolis, Delaware, and enrolls at More University. Superman [second series] #1

Richard Flagg graduates from the Air Force Academy and becomes a test pilot where he meets young hot-shot "Ace" Morgan. Shortly, he enters the airman camp where he meets Kane Grace. The Nevada Squad is recruited with Rick as the field commander. (Secret Origins #94)

## 1975

Juan Pold born. (Who's Who #18)

## 1977

After graduation from college, Hal Jordan goes to work for Ferris Aircraft as a test pilot. (JLA #166)

At 25, SUPERMAN makes his first public appearance after having to save a space plane that was going to crash in Metropolis. Dad Kent comes up with the idea of his becoming a costumed superhero, presumably based on his moments of the Golden Age heroes. (Man of Steel #1)

Clark Kent gets a job with the Metropolis Daily



Left's position, Selva Kyle becomes the San Knight's henchman. Later, the Calverton train the Allen/Martinez/Allen "Batman Year One"

Planet based on his machine "interview" with the new Superman. (Man of Steel #2)

Dr. Wayne, now 25, returns to Gotham City to begin his crime-fighting career. He adopts the identity of BATMAN in order to strike terror into the hearts of criminals. The first appearances of the Joker and the Clown Prince take place. (Batman #184-187)

Seven months after his first appearance, Superman meets Batman for the first time and tries to arrest him. Batman, however, convinces him that, though their methods differ, they are on the same side. (Man of Steel #3)

At age 10, Dick Grayson's parents are murdered by mobsters. In order to keep the boy from being consumed by vengeance as he was, the Batman takes him under his wing. (Secret Origins #3)

Young Ray Harper uses his archery skills to contrive

the Green Arrow to take him on as a partner. (Adventure #32)

## 1978

Barry Allen, a police scientist in Central City, Ohio, has a truck accident in his lab. Lightning comes through the window and explodes a collection of random chemicals. The combination gives Barry super-speed, a long-term cosmic look, and super-hearing. Barry decides to become the new FLASH, saving himself after his Golden Age job. (Shimmer #6)

En route to a TV appearance, four shrimpers accidentally fire through a plane crash. Discovering that they are living on borrowed time, Ace Morgan, Fred Haley, Rudy Perez and Red Ruckelshaus (the first) are battling the supernatural as THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN. (Shimmer #6)

Archaeologist, CHAR STRANGE is mysteriously teleported to another solar system via the Zeta Beam. (Shimmer #7)

At 1, Dick Grayson makes his first public appearance as BATMAN THE NEW WONDER. (Secret Origins #3)

## 1979

(This would have been where the first large-scale coming of age stories in more than two decades, described in JLA #104 and Green Lantern #228, fit chronologically, but the story has been rendered null and void by the new Martian history, and should be "written from memory" according to DC. This also obscures J. Edgar P. O'Connell's adoption of the modern superhero identity, as characterized in Detective Comics #273, to say nothing of Superman's questionable first of being in Mars and back without the benefit of so much as an X-ray machine.)

Tim paid Hal Jordan receives a power ring and battery from a dying alien. Using the ring to fashion a mask, Hal decides to become a superhero like those he recently met and trains himself after the Golden Age Golden Age. (Shimmer #12)

Superman has his first confrontation with Lex Luthor, who tries to use his fortune and prominence to buy Superman's secrets. However, his method of using the Man of Steel's powers against a nuclear underground in the eyes of the law and Luthor is arrested. Publicly humiliated, he vows revenge on the Kryptonian Crusader. (Man of Steel #4)

After the new super heroes have to wait for the second one in less than a year in order to battle a group of alien from Apollon, they decide to form a permanent organization, modeled after the Justice Age Justice Society. And so the NEWER LEAGUE OF AMERICA is born. The charter members are: Superman, Batman, Flash, Green Lantern, Aquaman, and the Martian Manhunter. (Justice League #1, 24)

While this story may or may not be significantly affected by the deletion of the original "first" JLA story (and a few others above.)

Wally West, nephew of Barry Allen's girlfriend Iris,



Twenty-eight year-old Clark Kent returns to Smallville where he finds that the crash in which his parents found him has been stolen. An appearance of Jax-El appears to him (apparently part of the crash's programming) and reveals to him for the first time that he is an alien from the destroyed planet Krypton. (*Man of Steel #6*)

Breton Brand, a vicious villain, is killed by an assassin with one hand. Instead of dying, however, he is called by Rama Kushna to seek his birth as an incorporeal spirit, under the name BRANDON, until his murder is avenged. (*Strange Adventures #281*)

All Puck, the Golden Age Atom, gets married. (*Atom #29*)



Hawk and Dove (Hail, two squabbling brothers with diametrically opposed views of life, become the hawk and the dove. (*Showcase #75*)

The RED TORNAADO, an android created by the villain, T.O. Morrow, breaks free of his programming and helps the JSA and JLA defeat Morrow. As a reward, he is offered membership in the JSA. (*JLA #64*)

Superman discovers that there is something which can kill him when he battles Irbidite, the man with the Kryptonite heart. He is on the point of death when Irbidite is interrogated away by Luthor who wishes to accomplish Superman's death himself. (*Superman Second series #1*)

The Chief, Elton Goff, Negative Man, and Juggernaut! Redburn of the Doom Patrol are killed by Madame Rouge and Captain Zolt in exchange for the lives of an entire fishing village. (*Doom Patrol #11*)

Luthor uses his super computer to discover that Superman is Clark Kent but refuses to believe it. (*Superman Second series #2*)

Aqueduct takes a leave of absence from the Teen Titans and Speedy becomes a full-time member. (*Teen Titans #29*)

The Hawk and the Dove first meet the Teen Titans, after which Wonder Girl adapts her current costume. The Titans reveal their secret identities to each other. (*Teen Titans #21-23*)

## 1982

Oliver Queen is framed for stock manipulations and loses his license. (*JLA #1*)

(Note: According to post-Crisis comments, Green Arrow always wore the costume that, in Pre-Crisis comments, he adopted at this point.)

After the death of her mother and father in a battle with Aqueduct, Deathstroke LANCE joins the JLA as the new BLACK CANARY. (*JLA #2-3*)

The members of the JLA reveal their secret identities to each other. (*JLA #22*)

Boston Brand (broader) and Reunion track the Hook to Nanda Parbat and discover that Brand's murder was an initiation stunt for the Hook's entry into the League of Assassins. (*Brave and Bold #6*)

Snapper Carr quits the JLA after being duped by the Joker into battling against them. The JLA then move their headquarters to a satellite built with Transigen technology, because the Joker knows where their former headquarters is located. (*JLA #73-75*)

A bar being responsible for the death of photographer Arthur Fawcett, the Titans' Titans restaurant opens. At this time, Robin resigns from the Titans. He is replaced by the Hawk and Dove and ULTIMO, a girl with para-normal abilities. (*Teen Titans #25*)

(Note: Dick Grayson's history is being revised and as not yet complete. According to pre-Crisis comments, he earned college at this point, that is no longer so.)

Hawk and Dove leave the Titans, having failed to fit into Mr. Jagger's program. (*Teen Titans #29*)

When police officer Jim Harper is killed, the non-adult MEMORON LINDEN arranges to have him cloned as a super-scientific project they are all employed in. The new GUARDIAN is one of the first fruits of the DNA projects. (*Jump #28*)

In an attempt to stop their arch enemy Darkstar from finding the anti-life equation, the NEW-GOLD SIMON LINDEN, AIR ARMED, and the NEWER PEOPLE come to Earth. (*Warner People #1*, *New Gold #1*, *Wk. Marvel #1*)

Green Lantern and one of the Guardians, spared on

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NO. 2 SHIPS MAY



by Green Arrow, begin a "quest for America" (Green Lantern #76)

Robin joins the Teen Titans, who have started to wearing their costumes and using their powers, as a part-time hero. (Teen Titans #33)

Speedy, upset with his sudden desertion by his Guardian and perhaps his failure to fit in with the Titans, turns to drugs, ultimately becoming addicted to heroin. With Black Canary's help, he goes through cold turkey withdrawal, and then presumably enters a treatment program. (Green Lantern #71)

After Deadman's brother is killed, he returns to Naclio Purbat where he finds out The Senses is attempting to launch an invasion of the enchanted land. He tries to be able to defeat the Senses' plan, Rama Kachow is destroyed in the battle and the land loses its enchantment. Deadman resolves to continue his quest for justice. (Deadman Second season #10)

Shortly after this, Deadman takes over Aquaman's body in order to warn Batman that the Senses is now working for Batman's enemy Ra's Al-Ghul. (JLA #94)

John Stewart is appointed captain Green Lantern by the Guardians, who are worried that Hal Jordan is becoming unreliable. (Green Lantern #67)

The JLA and ISA team up to rescue the Law's Legionnaires from the Iron Hand, who had trapped them in this past after their battle with the Nebula Man. (JLA #86-88)

The Teen Titans disbanded. (Teen Titans #43)

## 1983

Enlightened Man, now attired in leather shoes business corner, joins the JLA, followed shortly thereafter by the Red Tornado. (JLA #83-86)

Hardknox resigns from the JLA and returns to Shanghaï, his mission to study Earth police methods completed. However, his day there is cut short because the earthquake plague has destroyed Shanghaï's civilization. (JLA #88, 117)

The JLA attends the wedding of Athena and Adam Strange on the planet Rann. (JLA #11)

Captain Comet returns to Earth after years in exile in space and gets involved with a group of super-villains who have united to battle Doctor Doom. (Secret Society of Super-Villains #1)

POWERGILL comes to Earth. At first, she is believed to be another survivor of the planet Krypton, due to her numerous exploits in her past by her grandfathers, ARTHUR and ELONGIR. She joins the JLA. The newly-arrived METERMORPH also joins at this time. (All-Star Squadron #58)

Aquaman is depicted as King of Atlantis by Kershner,

who is really his old foe, Killer Shark. (Adventure Century #44)

The Titans return to battle Dr. Light, who intends to use them as bait to trap the JLA. (Teen Titans #44)

Hardknox finally becomes a member of the JLA. (JLA #104)

## 1984

School teacher and ex-olympic athlete Jefferson Pierce becomes Black Lightning in order to fight crime in the ghetto. (Black Lightning #1)

Months after the destruction of the Dooms Patrol, a damaged Robotman is washed ashore onto the lab of Doc Magnus, who abuses him. Returning to the Patrol's former headquarters, he finds the new DOOM PATROL—CLAYTON, NEGRATIVE, WERMAN, and THUNDER—assembled there. (Showcase #94)

Arthur Curry II (Aquababy) is killed by Aquaman's old foe, Black Manta. (Adventure #82)

The Teen Titans disbanded for a second time as Wally West graduates from high school and resolves to give up being a super-hero. (Teen Titans #10, Flash Spectacular)

Ray Palmer (the Atom) marries Joan Loring. (JLA #157)

Zatanna joins the JLA. (JLA #90)

Hal Jordan asks Guy Gardner to substitute for him while he is away visiting Co. Unknown to Hal, his power battery is destroyed and is exploded, apparently killing Guy. (Green Lantern #11)

On the Starline Squad's final secret mission to countermand occupied Cambodia, Doc Evans and Jess Bright are killed and Kaiten Grier has a nervous breakdown. (Secret Origins #44)

Garfield Logan (Beast) stars in the TV program Space Dink: 2022 until the program is cut for plagiarism. (Tales of the Teen Titans #1)

Thurgood Richard Raymond and Prof. Martin Stein are forced into one being during a nuclear accident. They resolve to help mankind as FIREWORK and HOT NUCLEAR MAN. (Firestorm #1)

## 1985

Dan Garrett is killed on Page Island. Although the battle wasn't a lost, his young friend, Ted Kord resolves to continue the legacy of the Blue Beetle. (Secret Origins #2)

Iris West is killed by Professor Zoom. (Flash #78)

Mr. Terrific dies, murdered by his old enemy, the Spirit King. (JLA #78)

Black Lightning saves Green Arrow and joins the JLA. (JLA #78)

Hal Jordan returns to work for Venus America once again. (Green Lantern #115)

Hal Jordan discovers that Guy Gardner was not killed, but simply blown to another dimension. Hal returns him to Earth, but Gardner has been seriously injured and remains in a coma. (Green Lantern #115)

Firestorm joins the JLA after a battle with the Silver Saint. (JLA #78)

ARLEN recognizes the Teen Titans in order to revive STARBORN from an alien race called the Gossamians, Rellon, Kai Pink, Wonder Girl, and Changeling (an alien boy) are joined by CYTORG, a young alien who has been partly assimilated with cyborgs after a debilitating accident. (New Teen Titans #1)

Clark Greyson dies and the original Robotman's head is transplanted into his body, thus making Rob-Exone finally human once again. (DC Presents #3)

During the final battle between the New Gods and a prototype, Darkseid is destroyed by the Hunger Dogs and the New Genesis is destroyed. (The Hunger Dogs)

The Crimson Avenger dies while rescuing a city from a tidalpool of burning toxic chemicals. (DC Presents #38)

The new Teen Titans and SUPERBOY find the bodies of Multiverse Refuge and General Zold and avenge the deaths of the Dooms Patrol in jail. (New Teen Titans #13)

The Guardians exile Hal Jordan from Earth for refusing to follow orders. (Green Lantern #12)

## 1986

THOR joins the Teen Titans. She is a young teen with the power to mentally move huge masses of rock. (New Teen Titans #16)

BATMAN joins the JLA and forms the OUTSIDERS to rescue his friend LUCAS FOX from terrorists in Malaysia. Among him are METAMORPH and Black Lightning. Thor's brother ONI FORCE, BULL (who controls strange window effects) and KATANA, a samurai. (Batman and the Outsiders #1)

Ray Harper (Speedy) marries Chastain, a ceremony, while on a government mission and later in love with her. Unable to resolve his conflicting loyalties, he drops both the role and her, unaware that he has fathered a daughter. (New Teen Titans Second season #1)

The Flash kills Professor Zoom when the Professor attempts to kill Barry's sister Iris West. Although he mistakes her for nemesis, the Flash is arrested for manslaughter. (Flash #124)



Ray Palmer (the Atom) visits Minskash, a world of six-inch tall people hidden in the Amazon, and falls in love with Terra. (Secret of Atom #1)

Adrian Chase, disguised at the crime in the streets and fighting his cohorts are hampered by the Constructive, becomes the new VILLAGEIN. (New Teen Titans Annual #1)

Darkseid regains the leadership of Apocalypse. (Orion an Infinite Earth)

Hal Jordan is allowed to return to Earth after his year-long exile in space. (Green Lantern #12)

Black Flag of the Suicide Squad, Cover Carson, Duke Deshaizer of the New Devils, Animal Man, Circe Bell, Delphos, and the Inevitable Man join together to form THE FORGOTTEN HEROES in order to combat a scheme by the Inevitable Man to destroy Superman and conquer the world. (Action Comics #552)

After being injured in a battle between Batman and the Joker, Clark Grayson joins being Robin. Meanwhile, Bruce Wayne has adopted young Timmy Todd, a boy he rescued from the horrors of Crime Alley. Jason eventually becomes the NEW ROBIN. (New Teen Titans #30, Batman #68)

Wally West gives up being Kid Flash and returns to Blue Valley. (New Teen Titans #30)

Jason Lynn Hudson finds that his skin turns green at will and that she has the power to fly and walk through walls and generally do anything that the cat cartoon on his wall power for. Confronting her parents, the Flash who she adopted and that she has a twin brother. Using her "poison punch" she smashes on the twin who turns out to be Todd Blue, who she finds has the power to turn into a living





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# IN 'LIFE'S UNPLEASANT INTERRUPTIONS' ON SALE IN EARLY JUNE

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crime and horror risk (which is enough to make anyone wonder if the *Sensless* didn't have a point), but when *Overstreet* takes it so far that the only significance he grants Carl Sagan's lovely 1955 story, "Old Civilizations," is that it's a "pre-drug war" story, then I start to resist it.

There are a lot of comic book out there, and there, and they collect comic books for a lot of reasons. The man who more than a couple who collect comic books with refined moral centers. No one who would be anxious to pay extra for a story in which slanders or disrespect himself as he used for the sake of a gig has altered it to me. But *Overstreet* doesn't like "comic books" (I actually agree) and about his only reason for collecting books that don't suffer in the least, unaltered, or ultra-violent.

Maybe *Overstreet*'s feelings really do reflect the collectors' market the way it really is, even if it does make us all look like a bunch of unrefined degenerates-cracking over drawings of half-naked women having their heads drilled (but somehow I doubt it). In the very least, the madhouse feelings of "bookings" cover and "drug wars" stretch some kind of explanation up front in the editorial section; otherwise, it looks like there are the only reasons people like to read and collect comic books.

Yes, the *Overstreet* Press Guide is not representative in the comic world. And think of what a madman we look like! Not just around, but. Say no to drugs! And feelings, and emotions, and Maud down, up, and acid in the face, and.

One thing's clear from the advance notices of *Marvel's* #34 that just turned up in the *Blackboard* edition: the folks at *Marvel* had better be hoping for a reviewer who's sympathetic to both North's style and a little touch in the comic book world. As it happens, they got just right. (I probably couldn't be more prejudiced in their favor going at it.)

The cover letter explains things a little. "This is the first of four issues (*Marvel's* #34-37) series of stories concerning *The Marvels*. There is a little office dramatically and comically set in the corner *Marvel* constantly. Look Ma—no mutants! The next two issues center on *Ragnar* and *Fundus* respectively. The fourth book brings them all together to deal with *Levi's* new body. It's meant to be a light-hearted romp, a sort of comic opera."



The greatly amusing 'Life with Voltag' from *Marvel's* #34 by Mike & Jim.

Like *Filings*, maybe? After all, *Filings* seems to have been the model for *Voltag*, and the story in *Marvel's* #34, entitled "Life with Voltag," comes on line, after all. The story itself is a book. The story begins with Voltag trying to leave his wife and children due to their being a startling resemblance to *Hate* and *Fate* (Kazuo's name) to avoid a noble wedding in August. Although at his mansion from the past life, *Voltag* returns to spend the holidays by leaving the guests into a pit, and somehow Voltag ends up the one who has to see that the past is changed back in time for the present. This being Voltag, things have only gotten worse after 11 pages.

The script, by Alan Zelen, is played for almost infinite comic effect; it's genuinely amusing, but then like "Hate's August's" Sargun General determined that comedy

is hazardous to your health!" seems that he's trying a little too hard. The art by Charles Yee is a nice balance between serious and comic characters are exaggerated just enough in the direction of caricatures to be funny, but still retain their grounding in what is, after all, essentially a "realistic" comic book. When Voltag finally shows up in his spacious (and scenic) and in building interior, which are usually better illustrated than those of other writers in more "serious" books.

I don't know about you, but this comic book makes several of my business, and the advanced look at the artwork is enough to make me agree with the actual book when it's published. How much higher can my praise be?

View or Publisher: Publications for review in the *Booklist* should be sent directly to Douglas B. Davies, PO Box 2322, Nashville, TN 37204







## REVIEWS

—LIFE — LIFE  
15. PLEASANT  
LIFE PLEASURE  
OF LIFE —



*Pertinax* (*Oryzias latipes*) is a small fish used as a model organism in many fields of biology.

[illegible]

Then, isn't a great comic. It's not as if comic that I'd single out to put around to people. Those who know tell me that it is the best of the New-Science pages of *Outright*. But it's a successful comic. It does what it sets to do. And so to do, it, it reminds me of the unique charm of the super hero movement, reminds me that a darkly made Marvel Comic can bring us enjoyment that nothing else in the world can quite approach.

PARTICLE DEGRADATION by Mark  
Hewitt and M.J. Broadbent, *Form-  
ulation* Series, 30, 24.

But it should have been on my list, but this time I can't say. In my opinion, this is a terrific (older) of a comic book. Whereas that it's a little disappointing as a major achievement, and on I can't put down it is a piece of art, but it's pretty to be sometimes, but it's only promising. It doesn't go to convince, but only succeeds in making me emotional comprehensive. It seems to have nothing to say, but there is a deeper story of people producing on that machine. The cover collage looks great, though the first chapter and two that it is just hard itself something through a subtle of heavy pages, but worth, some comic and non-comic.

The series is unfortunately flabby but has an narrative focus, the words are stylized, having "spicy" and unpleasant effect to follow. I won't describe the concepts because, despite numerous warnings about it by the way of explanation, I never got a sense of what it was. The ideas just seem to be a halfhearted of some, like haicouets among some a haire, word of typical comic book science-fiction adventure. The dialogue is as worthless as anything from a classic farce, filled with tedious exposition and obscure vocabulary.

The sad thing is, there are some very striking drooping and ugly-looking figures lost in this art. And, despite the failure of conception and writing, merely the fact that this art is willing to play with some of the ideas of successful players, is a

This is what I said by card. The official word was not. I believe I wrote it in 1949-50. ... I don't think the time has

and a number of  
months since the time.

to keep drama out of comedy and the bottom of the screen, regardless. I can't shake the feeling that there might be the germ of a good comic book hidden in all this junk. But Haworth and Rutherford seem unable to do anything to let that germ grow. I could be wrong, but I get a feeling here of creators concerned only with showing off their cleverness, and unfortunately what they're doing isn't clever enough to justify that. If there is artistic concern here, I'm not finding it.

I can live with a lack of continuity if a story is fun to read. Just that isn't the case here. This is a not-very-long story right before the comic, "Five Neighbors," by Horowitz about the same world. Despite some odd crime-movie parallels in the story itself, it's copyright 1988, two years before the rest of the material, and it seems to be aspiring to be nothing more than a cute little twist ending tale. But there's the irony. Where the rest of the *Blackthorn* stories tend to be a great deal and crumble into nothing, this one succeeds at being something more and quickly forgets it. Combined with the ludicrous notion of the rest of the issue, it found it refreshing. So I suggest Horowitz write most of *Blackthorn* like this.

Florida's *Drosophila* systematics, but not much that is wrong with the as depicted press right now. The much had with a welcomed simplicity because it's "different." A general statement of the status of the manuscript seems to have drawn

publishers and editors who ought to know better and trying to do the best of a mediocre, indifferent

[illegible]

No, I haven't taken leave of it yet. No, I wasn't visited by manifestations of Galileo and when it's a bad time. Marvellous. I'm not really about the world and I'm not disappointed with it. I still want to see some change and I'm not sure if I can see it. But I'll still want to see a change. Anyway, that's the only way of the world.

THE PUNISHER #1, script by Mark Davis, art by Klaus Janson, edited by Paul Fentz, Marvel Comics, 75 cents.

Not all good Marvel comics are just deftly produced pieces of a literary fairy tale. Some of them are powerful stories in their own right.

When *Billie Jean* [Duran's] is over I thought it was the end of the kind of gut-punching, violent music that our band is the Marx Brothers. I'm very happy to find out I was wrong. I also thought I was going to find out that kind of grotesque, ugly, and fast-moving with destruction in context. But in a sense, I have proved me wrong. I was

The *Flancker* immediately jumps ahead of the rest of its seed genre by the fact that it's all for her. It's like you know it. Despite the drug, the torture, the killings that often outnumber the pages, it doesn't prey on the self-importance in some of these that weigh down other "grim vigilante" novels. It is an exercise in violent force.

unscripted, unfiltered, played to the hilt. Because it's so perfectly and simply that, it's a talent.

ing story, this is a story in first person, through "my voice" by the Publisher, offering a lively, witty and subtle take on character through all the scenes. "Karen P. Menden, the Lower East Side," is again "Margaret," her friend. The terribly serious will entertain the reader with a little bit of an account on a drug neighborhood in shades of it as in terms of going to a party in possible rocky scenes in her "ownness." A bit of having in and slandering the street or night scene in the house for money. "Let me something for conversation." The next chapter tells, "So far, the Publisher is all," "I'll go back to her." After five pages of that I know that there wasn't trying to find me a serious world-view or show me deeply into the levels of his character. He has to be trying just to show me that it is not so wonderful that I have been

But don't get me wrong. This isn't a humor comic. This is, in fact, an amazingly relentlessly hard-boiled story I've never read in this medium. No one at the *Pandora*'s would care about anything but blood, cash, and

The President: Head of the state.

[illegible]

to speak.





all the nifty about what disappears as a hero from a villain in context. But I'm glad. *Born* looks just the right means to make this fun and exciting, while still keeping it recognizable as a vigilante action comic. The *Panther* becomes our hero simply because he's such a cool, funny, interesting character. The fact that he wants to tell drug dealers while everyone else at his world is padding each scene to get him just a notch higher on the moral scale than the rest of them, if you don't think too long about the vocal asplurians. And those asplurians are pretty easy to ignore when a scene is filling up the much-pur, resonant fun.

I'm also dazzled by the innocence and naivete of *Born's* scripting. I kept staring at the lines, reading and rereading them to try to understand how so much information was conveyed so smoothly by so few words. There is a clipped, machine-gun quality to the writing. "Belinda, talk to the man." "Talk to the goddamn lion." "Gee, how is drug?" "Becoming. You should know." "What's that supposed to mean?" "Stuck out nearly Little Joe Prep." "I don't do drugs." "Really?" "Really. Why not tell me you?" "Really. Why not tell me you?" "Without asking you to." "So, this very glibly said?" But at the same time there is a sharp, snappy, snarl, color, style to keep the characters colorful and the speech natural. I said to have my doubts about *Born's* ability to write anything other than *News*. *Didger* wrote quite did it for me. Even more words like *Flash* and *The World of Gutter* far ahead me as good but flawed, but he's one who can write

the chess pieces of the script. He has obviously developed into a man to come back to the scene.

Klaus Jensen is another one who has benefited significantly as recent months. I still remember my disappointment when he first took over the role as an *Uncle* although his style was still subtle and evocative, serving him up to take over the penicillin from *Frank Miller* was like watching the frame of a house collapse under a beautiful red roof. He has since, however, asserted himself as a writer and powerful presence in his own right. I love his big, square, high-shouldered bodies. I don't think I missed what about the comic too much of *Born's* *Pageant*. *Born's* character has evolved in *Dark Knight* was probably Jensen's contribution. The *Panther* has had a solid presence; that kind of sense of inevitability and momentum, whether derived in his black death's head costume, as a wanderer, or in watching his part of *Black Knight's* body and the ways in which he moves and presents himself are real, impressive things by themselves.

My one complaint is that Jensen also still has a problem with clarity. Here and there he makes a powerful point but leaves the wondering what's going on. Some of his lines look too much like, so that the people become just a series of random second images of characters. Occasionally his awkwardness with anatomy and body mechanics tends to up with him, and the time spent figuring out just what somebody is supposed to be doing—and how to take away from *Born's* high-velocity story. The bad quality of putting in motion *Born's* doesn't help him any either. Jensen makes his images with a lot of time, some of them fine and subtle, and when they disappear into a blur of color, what *Born* can be lost.

But overall, this is about as clear as I can see. There is a great comic as I have said. In a lot of ways it reminds me of *Elmore Leonard*, the violence crime novel writer who became to be a couple of years ago. Not a lot of substance, but, but such an interesting and well-crafted, earlier that it's hard to call *Born*. *Born*, *Born*, makes effective use of a typical "low" viewpoint and lots of middle crime logic—"rockhouse" (*Born's* signature). Also like *Leonard*, he reads heavily on the South American romance and the ethnicity of his drug people (although there are no blacks in *Born's* drug world, an odd depic-

ture both from style and reality). *Born* doesn't give us quite as much verbal play and brings character action in *Leonard*, but he makes up for it with cool scenes and tougher dialogue. And if you're Jensen, make a first all-out scene, with a surprising hardness.

I'm impressed. I thought I'd get a good and fast of his drug scene, only to find it was a little more, books, and TV. It's not that anybody can readable as others that's gone so well in the way *Born* and Jensen have.

**DEATH BATTLE** #6, stories by Robert Lagered and Rick Barnes, art by David Ross, Joseph Schlegel, Michael G. Hall, and Scott Williams, edited by Dave Schwartz. Kitchen Sink Press, 1994.

Once one has addition to the first of *It* has before I drop the subject left, the idea—what's left is not a happy one. This is a high school thing in, because it's been so much more, but still that is a comic book that's made a good and distinctive contribution to the field.

The best thing about *Death Battle* is "Bolt's the Game" (pg. 14), an interesting series of mystical horror by Jack Jackson (David), one of the most powerful and consistent artists to emerge from the old underground comic. Telling the story of an alien monster that appears as a god in the Apaches during the Spanish conquest of Texas, it combines *Lovecraftian* style with the *Indian* and carefully detailed Texas history that Jackson has made his special prerogative. It's a potent combination of classical, beautifully crafted and told by the only guy who could pull such a monster off, and it's winning, easily for its contributors.

Unfortunately, the rest of *Death Battle* hasn't been nearly as solid, and the issue without "Bolt's" often has terrible standing in their own. Even when it's under, however, this remains a distinct and consistent comic book. The general feel is still in its style of the old *E.C.* horror comics, but this isn't a slick package of crudely drawn *E.C.* stories, like *Shen's* *Tales* and others. The stuff is rooted in the underground, often produced by writers and artists whose work was shaped in the core of the late '60s and early '70s. *E.C.* had an enormous influence on the underground, both through its subtle satirical horror comics and the broad, over-the-top *Warner Bros.* *Mad*, its primary defense at the hands of whippersnappers and winking de-generates seems to

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DANIEL VILLALBA

DARREN MATHISON  
Smyrna, NY

### Raring, Frisking, Fawning Mania

Dear Kim,  
You know, I was thinking about it the other day, and I realized where I'd seen your name before - you used to write all of those really snide and nasty and generally despicable cruel letters to me in *The Comics Journal* a few years ago. I realize this is something that everybody has out there has known all along, but I'm not really into the "time scope" (misquoting *Flowers*) in the only "real"

"'Wonder'?" That can't be right. I need to absolutely love the stuff, and my dad, all these capsize heavy purple paint is a dated prevalence in a lot of what Miller and Moore are doing these days, but I will can't read a QB, well [heh] I used to love McGreggor's stuff when I was in my teens. I don't know if it grows anywhere. Answer: —[7]

[illegible]

carefully buy and I only buy it because it's so goddamn beloved and it's worth what I paid on your lastest two issues (#222 and 243) that a work out. "Buy, this is that gay who really love-handed Deference, he is for *the Journal* a few years ago." At the time, I have to admit, I was a naive, clueless, knowing, absolute master of a Don McGeorge fan, and I didn't think a whole lot of your literary taste, but the years have been kind, and I've grown over the years. Don's a don't know whether or not I've told you sort of Don McGeorge fan, because it's been years since I managed to get all the way through one of my old *Simple Arrows* or *Wife of the Week*.

I could go on diagnosing with medical insurance. ICB can

## LETTERS



but a little black," he said all of a sudden. I thought I'd get into with some of your new members instead. First, I've got a bad nose to pick with Gerry Jones. Jones is a fine writer and intelligent, thoughtful person (and he usually agrees with me) but I've pretty much got by, sticking to the R.D.'s "Comics in Review" column. I've got a bad nose to pick with Brad Bradshaw and not just on *Wings*. The *Legend of Wanda's Woman*, which Jones loved, seemed to match Jones. That Bradshaw drew it, and may have co-plotted it, but the guy who wrote it was named Karl Runkel, and I would have thought that, somewhere in the *Wings* comic, Bradshaw would have said the main character could have been named Karl. I've never read that book. Perhaps that "Brad Bradshaw" had the great good sense to cut through the whole continuity mess and just present the story the way it would be told, and "the new mess" of the finished and more convincing comics of the year. Only he left out

And I think I know the idea of an old, balding, superannuated person with the voice of a human of a 12-year old being an honest fragrance. And I know the team needs some help to make it interesting. The Black Knight is dull as dishwater but he looks great and he has the potential of being the sort of character a motivated writer could do really anything with. There was a lot of talk about the possibility of a friend of Captain Marvel, who has a living costume, a nutting personality and supervisory that are so monumentally all-encompassing that the other Avengers really have something to do with his arsenal, but that's it. I know, I know, if it's how I really feel, why do I say the word? Because there's something about it. I don't know who, but I said it and it was a good idea. I don't really understand, but it's not actually painful like *Chambers's* or *Wain's*, and it to be brutally honest, the



simply aren't that many really good coaches out there, and I got a little desperate sometimes....

Love! the "Think Alouds!" I think you may end up offending a lot of your readers with the stuff, especially the little cartoons with the "DUNGEONS & DRAGONS PLAYED BY DICK & FLORIE" that were along with the post (seriously drawn, though). There was no sense in

humor and/or self-worth are going to take offense at the concept that anyone who reads Marvel or DC comics, plays roleplaying games, likes old movies, reads science fiction and/or fantasy, and two peas in an unusual clover with pants in his head, has on his face, and has on his palms. I mean, let's face it: the above description (the initial part of it, not the conclusion) probably fits 99.999999% of your readership.



"I like it, I like it, and I'm 29 years old. I go out and buy beautiful women, I shoot some MTV, and I like Carl Gagliardi. Fortunately, I have a wonderful wife, so I don't have to do this alone. As I found myself in this frame of reference, so I don't feel offbeat (he snorts). The M-203 grenade launcher! But I think people on a high wire will think I'm a little bit off." That's the whole *White House* Supreme controversy in being these kinds of out-of-composition, and I think people are becoming more and more open to it. The Supreme is changing, it's not that Supreme is changing, it's that the whole DC Universe has been profoundly altered into this weird La-La Land that supposedly makes sense, until you realize that it's not. The whole Supreme is just a symptom of this fundamental revisionism. Now, I don't think you can blow this sort of thing out of proportion. I think it's a good thing to open a window at times that there's a lot of things that I tell that La-La Man and Henry Wolfman decided it was too complicated for all the pure fantasy, like, to keep track of and so it was easier to make it a little bit more realistic. So, yes, I am a caricature, out, slip on the cuffs but I won't go quietly, either. I'm not necessarily sure that's a lot of the things *Batman* has made. I'm not a character who's carrying around a lot of really silly nonsense on his back like *Red Rider* is out as *Red* for some damn! However, I don't think that's the whole thing. I think it's going to be changed to examine some of these character issues. This, I've often wondered why *Supreme* didn't get off on being *La-La* because it usually appeared, but it's not serious, and it's not a good series, and it's not the *Menace* with a *Batman*'s supply of bad characters and I wish they'd be so specialized as to why the last *Century* didn't have one of his enemies, or a *Batman* who was on a coast from a



**TABLE 1**



I loved the Flash, too. Mike Bazzari saw Flash before me, and he's certainly more knowledgeable and "nerd" sounding. But, hell, they didn't have to tell them a line or two to accomplish that! All of the changes at Wally West that make the new Flash so realistic are editorial and conflict with continuity (Kerry Fleish could be able to do all of the really powerful things the original Flash could, remember?) so why kill him if they wanted to change him? Probably so nobody would across the way people are screaming about Byrne's Superman, which is understandable. But I don't like it.

However, I always change of nature, here! I don't like Englehart's new Silver Scepter series. Even same Englehart can't back to comics, he's either been doing stuff he's ashamed by, doesn't care about (like: Coast Angiers, Justice) or he's been doing stuff due to credit about but that was so immature (remember that I checked Fleish at Justice Flash), or stuff that he could about but who's not made so uncomfortable that he just couldn't do what he wanted with a Scepter or stuff that he's never about but that is just too damn goofy for words (Green Lantern Corps). Yes, I want to like this book, but the every good thing about it, Guy Gardner, the Rocket Red Brigade,

the way shifting like Euphoric, that Justice, John Stewart, Kanto Yea, Silver, Green, Silver's a million different things, that book comes with a lot of those lovely continuity, the structure, plot, the fact that all of the changes are composition and shaped. I remember, Silver Scepter looks like Englehart doing something he can get into, with an initial feeling, that will be accessible to the general public, and that will continue the best parts of his previous work on Justice and Captain Marvel, Green, the Silver Scepter is an extremely rocky course, but the sort of thing that just looks like a little bit ridiculous. Granted, the Silver Scepter is damn near all powerful, but this won't be a super hero book, it'll be a comic adventure book and Englehart is all good at those. So I have high hopes.

Anyway, there are a lot of things I could go on but doing about, but I'm tired and I'm sure you are too. Keep up the good work.

■ Writing, like any art, is based on creative input. Whether spontaneously someone else, plagiarized, or parodied. In either case, lack of originality is unacceptable. A big problem comes when writers quote the Uncle Milton comic "Tad, from the

Acet" and take from themselves, which only results in bad writing. The cloning someone in a bad way would be. And don't you think that's a real and unusual possibility. The writing comes to you only really easy? As long as the language keeps being the best and strongest, they don't or all know who "they" are will keep going it to be so.

LARENCE KOBAYASHI  
Aspen, CO

#### What Complaint?

Wow.

Seeing my editorial printed on February first's issue was the biggest boost out of my life. I really got a kick out of doing a double take. Please, please use me next time. My heart can't take many more shocks like this. Now, thank you very much, for my first printed kick that was a great high. I'm still getting over the shock.

A quick aside: Archie Goodwin was recently talking about Epic's new (and more) being printed in the Dark Knight format. The choice he came to making in the Dark Knight format was using "The dark knight" as a title. They're not to say that Blood would be one of the most impressive uses of that format ever. Now I don't mind the thing about how they're going to do a better idea anyone, but what really gets to me is the company they are so willing to mention DC, or any other company that uses that format. If they say they're going to do a better idea anyone else, why are they so afraid to mention who inspired them?

To Goodwin's credit though, he mentioned that he'd be using the following attack. He referred to it as a "compositional" attack. What, do they think we're not very bright? (DC) And this is Marvel's "Tad" issue! I think one of the things that both companies need to realize is that by plagiarizing other companies' titles, they won't be sharing their share of the market. They'll just be increasing the market. Comics are like laundry detergent. You can buy two different brands at the same time without killing your production. If a reader decides to buy an Epic comic and then a, it doesn't mean he'll never off all DC titles for the rest of his life.

And, I think I've talked about all this enough. Again, my normal thanks for printing my editorial. If you ever need a favor,

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8,010 57



LOIS LANE

• One thing I learned in advertising: one of the many things I learned advertising is that unless you're showing passion for a better life, you don't mention the competition. Marvel is just being responsive, again. And... you're welcome anytime. —ED

JULIE FORD  
Richmond, VA

#### Return to the Original

There seems to be a misunderstanding among fansites concerning DC's "reimagination" of its flagship characters. What some have failed to realize is that DC is simply returning their main characters to their original personas, yet, at the same time, adding new facets to these characters' personalities to make them more accessible to today's fans.

For example, in issue #608, Grant Tinker doesn't like Royce's misrepresentation of Lois Lane because Lois is "too broad," "irritating," and "bitchy." These are the same character traits of Sogol and Shaz! BFF's Lois Lane. Jerry Siegel proposed Lois as an independent, vibrant, and occasionally wild Clark Kent's ex-girlfriend. Later's characters followed after Siegel and Shaz! left DC.

James is right about Clark Kent being different from the laughing stock of the old days. Yet James fails

to note that Lane still looks down on Clark. She despises him since he kept keeping her on these juicy Superman stories. The Siegel and Shaz!er Lois Lane also despised Kent for occasionally swooping her on these Superman stories. Of course, she also thought Kent to be a spendin' playboy. Now, she sees Kent as an arrogant cock. Poor Clark can't win for losing with Lane!

• And it is just, most everyone hates something that we may share everything. *Advent* is all the other life. Clark and Lois were such an item. Now, there's Clark and "Cat" Grant. (Thanks to Shaz!er, not Royce.) And what about the fact I do not recognize that guy at all? —ED

T.M. MAPLE  
St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada

#### Responding to the White Boy

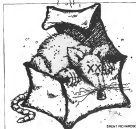
The highlight of it all had to be the interview with Ty Templeton, a man posed on the brink... well, on the brink of something. Certainly, Jay's letter is a classic book that shows maturity that it reveals and hopefully it will get a lot of light. However, perhaps the most interesting piece on new information I picked up is that Ty is the son of Charles Templeton (aka Clark). Ty was being mistreated when he was with his father as nearly a

domestic worker. That is how the most mature writer here at his world and successful manager. You know what this means, don't you? It means that he's having an increasing and accomplished father. Ty has more probably not from before his father's story.

The most interesting part of the interview was a question that struck close to home for me. I was of course speaking of the comments by Peter Borch concerning Clark from 14 years later to this point from his father's current position in the school of things at DC. I think that he has gotten the two little negative and positive from London. I've always secretly enjoyed his art and inspired his professionalism and creativity. I think it is the fact that he'll always be number one on my list of Superman artists and among my favorite of my description in the field of comics.

Finally, a stupid comment as I have surprised that I did more or less completed in regard to the letter from "The Little White Boy" (my reference to Shaz!'s concerning me. So, here are a few words directed at ELMK. First let us know in... )

1) You return to this. I'm a bit more important than I think I am. 2) You obviously took my letter on issue #608 seriously. Maybe you believe that "Smoking" Thomas is still a man as a person as my pen, like he said. (I'm not writing, I'm like I do.) I do actually have a point of view, but when I'm wondering right now is do you have a sense of humor or not?



DUSTY HICKMAN

3) The first letter that I wrote to a comic book was not in fact published. (I believe was the second.) So the first, or fourth, or fifth, or...

4) I have never referred to myself as a "half-made letterhead." I'm not Ford like to come to this they talk on Shaz!'s, though I certainly like and would like to you to my, namely, I'm "half-made letterhead." However, I'm "half-made letterhead" if the most anything to you.

5) Your letter has been Shaz!'s letter. Not to mention that of LBJ. (I'm not sure if you get the picture.)

6) Despite what you say, Jay of people think the "Smoking" (aka, maybe I should explain this.)

7) Is "The Little White Boy" your real name?

8) I love you too.

P.S. Thomas, isn't it a really though, sometimes, not to mention comic's mind today?

• At my first editorial reply to a TM Maple letter. So back to my reply, except giving with my explanation comments. I could point out to you if M that he obviously does not know how to write. But it is not his fault.

Phil A. Lister  
New Scotts, Canada

#### Charles Henry Pen

I thought I would send my views to the "Charles Action Heroes"

debate, having read the "Charles Henry" issue of *Amazing Heroes*.

Firstly, I did enjoy the verdict. Question and Captain Atom articles, which were both very informative and revealing.

So, I'd like to take a moment to respond to a personal, unasked "thank you" to you guys. Keep up the great work.

I'm still looking forward to the "offshoot" premiere of *Amazing Heroes* (personal issues) from "Charles DC" and Tiger, and Peter Cannon Thunderbolt.

I like the fact that the DC better not hold my breath, though I'm sure the Question article, but it could definitely use some improvement. Such as: "Hey, what's the Question's last supposed to turn into from here, where he's becoming a Question?" (My meaning, Shaz!'s tip. And the Question's name is supposed to be very unusual, as it sounds like a light suit. Set gloves, orange shirt, yellow tie, and orange belt and socks.)

Now, I know as "Mr. Menagerie" Charles Henry "buddy" first set his hands for his first. I like the Question series.

There is a reason why Denny Keith getting the colors of the friends and has many. Because he is stated in the Question's R's was poor, held and black and white (photograph) of the original Question issues from Charles as reference. This is how Charles' character. (Charles Henry's name is not in the "Charles Action Heroes"

he wanted as a character pay trip. Who's who was that, anyway? The only for me. I waited 20 years for that!

Captain Atom is, of course, completely unrecognizable, except for the name. I don't care for the "bad" one. Now also, rings, or anything else.

Well, I don't want like the new logo.

Go back to writing Superman, Mr. Borch.

I admit I'm spoiled by all the "Mr. Borch" reimagining Captain Atom. They were wonderful and my collection books from all, in fact, all issues of the most Charles Henry. No wonder I'm spoiled.

Look at *Proclamation*. He's now in issue, when a wire breaks on his head. But Charles Henry is the only one and for the "Who" and, of course, everyone else followed suit. (Dennis)

Another character named. Only George (Shaz!) at DC should be allowed to handle *Proclamation*, and if I had my way, that's the way it'd be.

Kent's Gals should be run outside home on a rail.

By the way, I recently read you enjoy the photo edition of the Charles Henry figures republished from existing DC figures. The guns, pistols, automatics, *Proclamation* (let's not), and his guns and power and made it up as I went along.

Unique, or what?

• What. Every about accepting your name in AM #607, such is the fact of *Amazing Heroes*. The photo was apparently unacceptable on other papers, but the *Amazing* were surely done. Now about out of *Amazing Heroes*. —ED

MICHAEL GENROW

#### Digging Macho Menage

As an occasional reader of your magazine, I have to make some comments on issue #608. But before I come down too hard, let me tell you that I really appreciate your *Proclamation* (Charles Henry) and the other stuff you've put out. I'm a fan of the magazine. —ED

As an occasional reader of your magazine, I have to make some comments on issue #608. But before I come down too hard, let me tell you that I really appreciate your *Proclamation* (Charles Henry) and the other stuff you've put out. I'm a fan of the magazine. —ED

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were a review of his heroic career  
before. While I agree with some of  
his assessments, I probably disagree  
with his comments on Star Brand  
and others they are rubbish. I read  
the New Universe story and gave up  
on Star Brand because of its  
pointless and disgusting rape mes-  
sage after the first few issues. I have  
never read #1 to 3, and they do not  
seem to change my opinion (and  
not on Star Brand's racist writing  
about Africa). I am not American  
and certainly, but if the people in Star  
Brand are my references, I would not  
want to live there. "Duck," according  
to his kids, "was Star Brand's  
creation." That is, if you agree  
with cartoon, of course. Duck must  
be a deeply disturbed racist, be-  
lieving from his dating with people  
attracted to racism. I would think as  
a person who is a bad judge. Not  
only is his body being abused, but  
your mental too. I would  
be afraid by "Duck" by the "Star"  
the story is not more human being.  
His other problems also seem to  
be nothing wrong with having  
sexual relationships with different  
races and abusing their trust on Star  
Brand's. Maybe that is supposed to  
mean our perception of Conell's  
dark past. The writing of all his  
stories is brilliant, but I think  
completely unconvincing and  
which is more more disturbing. And  
that goes for the story as well.  
The probably everything will turn out  
to be a continuation of the rape phre-  
nology described by everybody else  
in the "White Knight".

And another thing: Gary Rebo-  
son writes that he read Superman  
with his kids. Alright. But after a  
short time, he wrote "Carnage was  
the only reason to bring this father  
and his children together," and that  
is, of course, plus disgusting when  
you think about it for about half a  
second. I wonder whether anyone  
else in your audience took offense  
at that. I hope so.

And another thing: is your Kim  
Thompson that Kim Thompson who  
Ellen Brown pages after John pages  
in Justice (one of the major battles)  
concerns in Freedom Beyond all these  
years ago when I signed my  
franchise with such wonders as Lee  
Tanner, Brown, Mike Tiano, and  
Alvin Leland. I'm, you Americans  
don't know what you're missing!"  
And another thing: once completely  
satisfied type, I would like to ask  
Robert Simmons officially for a  
Star. I have always admired him  
and there is no person in a  
Asian (aka, the big help), and

Luke as a typical cliché few down  
to the crooked nose (and you know  
who was kind of that). So-  
phisticated, please, don't "Wah, wah, do-  
we not such a tale." (Wah, Lolo  
Buckin' the Point!) Now you're leav-  
ing. Now, but you might come back  
for an occasional animal, might you  
not? And then you could do the same  
job, right?

★ My American ones all that bad.  
That one, the cliché at the end, I  
love you. And another thing:  
the upcoming drama of Conell in Star  
Brand is a little more than most  
of your guys. Some real people like  
Duck take about all their experience  
of life, and though I'm, I agree  
with your sense of positive de-  
struction, though. And another thing:  
Do, you Kim and the old  
of Spirit, but let's better now. —J2

GEORGE JIMCA  
MILWAUKEE, WI

Big Name vs. Big

Thank you, thank you, thank you for  
the fantastic material! I only

wish you featured more DC  
and Marvel characters by name. "Big  
Name" artists, for example, John  
Byrne does an incredible "Wonder  
Girl" for next year's version, by to  
George Perez to do a color  
comic of "Wonder Woman".  
Wow, I'd buy a dozen.

★ There's a whole hush world of  
comic art that's beyond DC and  
Marvel, boy. Do me and buy a  
dozen of them. As to the artist we  
did have, sorry, but due to space  
limitations we couldn't make their  
names any bigger. Seriously, we had  
to. "Big Name". Change, you'd  
better check your copy. —J2

ROBERT T. MOSCOWITZ  
Johnston, PA

The King Is Dead

Some people just don't get it, do  
they?  
And how long does Marvel think  
they can continue misapplying  
and twisting and bending to their  
beliefs in billions begin to serve  
the company? Good lord, that cost



WILLIAMS











YEAH.  
THIS IS A  
JOB FOR...

PAPACAW!

COMING FROM  
VORTEX COMICS!

